



## Key Scripture

### Numbers 21 NIV

*4 They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; 5 they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"*

*6 Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. 7 The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.*

*8 The Lord said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." 9 So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.*

## WHY DO WE HAVE TO GO?

### Opening.

- Share your personal theory why people are generally impatient.

Just before they entered the Land, the King of Canaan heard that the Israelites were coming which led to a fight. The king captured hostages, but the Israelites prayed for their release. They fought and successfully overtook the enemy. However, the people grew impatient and spoke against God and Moses saying (v. 5) *why have you led us here?* The Lord took action to discipline the people. In our sanctification, the Lord will sometimes send something to discipline us to remind us that where we're headed is so much better than where we've been. We have to go where God leads because there is no better place to be than the center of His will.

### Read the Scripture. *Numbers 21:4-9*

### Think Through.

- Share a part of the sermon that made the greatest impact on you.

### Share and Apply

- Once again, Israel grumbled against God's purposes and complains to Moses about the lack of water and food. What does this cycle of Israel's attitude of blaming God teach us about our own cycles of obedience/disobedience, hot/cold faith?
- Throughout the Bible we see that the Lord takes rebellion seriously. He disciplines the Israelites by sending venomous snakes which made them realize their sin and sought God's help. Read Hebrews 12:5-6. What does this teach us about God's discipline? Why is pain sometimes necessary to help us learn our lesson?
- What sort of divine discipline have you experienced lately where God reminded you to stay faithful in your journey and calling?
- Moses prayed and the Lord commanded Moses to *"make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live."* What do you think does this image symbolize? Read John 3:14.
- In 2 Kings 18:4, this bronze snake that Moses created made it to the time of King Hezekiah. King Hezekiah ordered for the bronze snake to be destroyed because the people prayed to it instead of God for healing. There are times when the instrument of our healing or blessing can become an idol that needs to be destroyed. What blessings has God given you that may have become an idol for you?
- When we look to Jesus, we find our healing, joy, hope, favor, satisfaction, and eternal life. In our journey, we must keep looking to Jesus.